

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9374

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, AORG, ICEM

SUBJECT: FINANCING OF MOVEMENT JEWISH REFUGEES EX-USSR TO ISRAEL

FOR S/R:ORM

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE IT WAS AGREED IN 1973 THAT WITHDRAWALS FROM USG SPECIAL ACCOUNT NO 3 IN ICEM REFUGEE LOAN FUND COULD BE MADE TO COVER TRANSPORTATION COSTS OF JEWISH REFUGEES EX-USSR FROM VIENNA TO ISRAEL AT RATE \$95 PER CAPITA ON UNDERSTANDING THAT JEWISH AGENCY FOR ISRAEL (JAI) WOULD IN DUE COURSE REPAY TO THIS ACCOUNT \$45 PER CAPITA. AT TIME THIS AGREEMENT REACHED THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT AIR FARES FROM VIENNA TO LOD, ISRAEL WOULD BE INCREASING.

2. DURING PAST YEAR THERE HAVE BEEN PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS INVOLVING JAI, EL AL AND ICEM CONCERNING TRANSPORTATION COSTS. THE ICEM TRANSPORT EXPERTS HAVE EXAMINED RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION AND CONSIDER FARE INCREASES PROPOSED BY JAI/EL AL FOR 1973 AND 1974 JUSTIFIED. THESE PROPOSED INCREASES RESULT PRINCIPALLY FROM CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS AND RISE IN FUEL COSTS. ANOTHER FACTOR INFLUENCING COST THESE MOVEMENTS IS GUARANTEE GIVEN BY JAI TO AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES AFTER CLOSURE SCHONAU CENTER THAT TRANSIT STAY OF INDIVIDUALS WOULD BE KEPT TO ABSOLUTE MINIMUM. CONSEQUENTLY, WITH IRREGULAR AND COMPARATIVELY LOW

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LEVEL OF ARRIVALS VIENNA IN 1974 IT HAS NOT ALWAYS

BEEN POSSIBLE TO USE FULL CAPACITY OF CHARTERED
FLIGHTS WHICH HAS TENDED INCREASE PER CAPITA COST
OF TRANSPORTATION.

3. TAKING ACCOUNT OF ABOVE ICEM NOW PROPOSING THAT
PER CAPITA AMOUNTS FOR WITHDRAWALS FROM SPECIAL
ACCOUNT NO 3 FOR THIS PURPOSE BE DETERMINED FOR
SIX MONTH PERIODS DURING 1973 AND 1974, AS WELL AS
FOR FUTURE. REPAYMENTS BY JAI WOULD HAVE TO BE
INCREASED ACCORDINGLY. ICEM'S SPECIFIC PROPOSALS
THIS REGARD ARE AS FOLLOWS:

PERIOD	PER CAPITA WITHDRAWAL	PER CAPITA RE- PAYMENT BY JAI
JANUARY/JUNE 1973	\$100	\$47
JULY/DECEMBER 1973	\$109	\$52
JANUARY/JUNE 1974	\$132	\$63
JULY/DECEMBER 1974	\$165	\$78

4. MISSION RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF ABOVE PROPOSAL AND
WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE ASAP.ABRAMS

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